Provincial autonomy PONAM's main aim, says Magsi

By A Correspondent

BADIN, Dec 31: The chairman of Sindh Taraqqi Pasand Party, Dr Qadir Magsi, has said the Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement is not satisfied with the quantum of autonomy provided in the Constitution.

Briefing newsmen at the Badin Press Club here on Wednesday evening, Dr Magsi reiterated that the aim of the PONAM was not to struggle for the removal of the Nawaz government but it was aimed at achieving full autonomy for the provinces.

He claimed that Pakistan was being ruled by a clique which believed in 'Punjabi chauvinism' and knew not what was happening in the provinces, particularly in Sindh.

The nationalist leader criticized the governor's rule, saying that it was a conspiracy against the people of Sindh whose voice has been suppressed. He warned the government against any move aimed at gagging the voice of the nationalists.

To a query, Dr Magsi said the question of seeking the MQM's cooperation and its joining the PONAM could not arise as the MQM did not represent a nationality while the PONAM was an alliance of the parties representing the four nations which were hit by the big province.

The STPP chief announced that the PONAM would launch a campaign in Punjab after Eid with a view to apprising the people there to demonstrate large heartedness and try to understand the magnitude of the problems of smaller provinces.

Referring to Sindh, he said Sindhis were even deprived of their democratic rights by the rulers and added that the Islamabad Declaration could save the country from disintegration.

Later, the STPP organized a musical show to mark the New Year's celebrations.

ENCROACHMENTS: The district administration on Wednesday continued its anti-encroachment operation, dismantling sheds on Khoski Road.

Talking to this correspondent, the assistant commissioner of Badin said that at least six shops and more than 30 sheds erected on the state land were removed.

He said the encroachments will also be cleared from other parts of the town.